

Dear Members of the House Committee on Health:

SUBJECT: SB 2332 SD2 relating to Agricultural Products, Honey.

I oppose this bill and ask that you defer its passage until you've adequately consulted with the beekeepers you intend to help. This bill began with good intentions: to ease regulations on home-based, small scale beekeepers that do not have access to city or county water systems. However, several amendments later, the bill instead brings onerous and unnecessary regulation to an already strained and fragile industry.

The warnings for honey labels proposed in the bill exaggerate the risks and contradict the bill's acknowledgement that honey is "antiseptic, antibiotic, antifungal, and antibacterial." If used at all, the wording should be simplified to: "Do not give honey to infants under one year of age." and "This product was not processed in a department of health-inspected facility." The bill requires home-based beekeepers to maintain certain records for at least two years. This appears to be an arbitrary length of time that will not necessarily protect the consumer.

Furthermore, even though I've passed the Dept. of Health Food Safety certification course required by certified kitchens, I could not use certified kitchens to process my honey. When I inquired about using the DOH certified kitchens in East and North Hawai'i Island, I was told that no honey processing is allowed in these kitchens because of liability concerns. Bees are attracted to the smell of honey and would pose a potential hazard to all who are in and around the kitchen.

I doubt that it is your intention to pass laws that will put already struggling beekeepers out of business. Beekeeping has become more time-consuming and costly as we have had to invest in new equipment and apply new techniques in the battle against *varroa* mites and small hive beetles. The additional regulations contained in this bill will add to our costs and demand more of our time. Although our costs are rising, there are limits to what we can expect the consumer to pay for honey.

Lest we add disappearing beekeepers to the disappearing bees, I recommend that you defer passage of this bill until you've had the chance to adequately assess what would be helpful.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Chang  
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P.O. Box 202  
Pa`auilo, HI 96776

## **morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 10:14 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** jandelliott@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2332 on 3/20/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/20/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2332

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: jan elliott  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [jandelliott@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jandelliott@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/16/2012

**Comments:**

Honey is an ideal agricultural product for Hawaii.

Honey production benefits the environment by attracting bees that pollinate native plants as well as agricultural crops. Hawaiian honey is a delicious and highly desirable product that is in great demand.

Honey producers are often located in remote "off the grid" agricultural regions of our State without access to municipal water or processing facilities. Honey producers are currently hindered by excessively stringent regulations that were designed for other agricultural products. Honey is a naturally pure, safe and healthy product that does not require the extensive processing that these regulations were intended to control. Please support Hawaii's honey producers and pass this bill.

## **morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 6:36 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** robbierayjazz@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2332 on 3/20/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/20/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2332

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Robbie Ray Tongg  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [robbierayjazz@gmail.com](mailto:robbierayjazz@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/16/2012

**Comments:**

Aloha to This committee to decide Bill #SB2332 Please continue to support our Rural Hawaii Farmers and in this case BEE KEEPERS and Raw Honey Sales to the public, it is PONO To Support Mahalo Robbie Ray Tongg

## **morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 5:27 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** Teri@TeriSherrow.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2332 on 3/20/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/20/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2332

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: M. T. Sherrow  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [Teri@TeriSherrow.com](mailto:Teri@TeriSherrow.com)  
Submitted on: 3/16/2012

Comments:

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**From:** cpd@dfarm.us  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 2:43 PM  
**To:** Rep. Ryan Yamane; Rep. Daynette Morikawa; Rep. Della Belatti; Rep. John Mizuno; Rep. Jessica Wooley; Rep. Faye Hanohano; Rep. Jo Jordan; Rep. Corinne Ching; Rep. Chris Kalani Lee; Rep. Kymberly Pine; Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji  
**Subject:** SB2332

Dear Honorable Members of the House Health Committee and Rep. Tsuji,

Below is my testimony on SB2332, Regarding Agriculture, that I also submitted online:

I am the past-president of the Big Island Beekeepers Association (BIBA) and a home-based honey producer. I oppose this measure. There is already a Home-based Honey Producer law on the books that is perfectly adequate in the extent of regulation for this type of production. The proposed regulation of home-based "produced" honey contained in SB23323 is unnecessarily punitive and fails to recognize that honey is a product unlike "processed" foods like jam or jelly. In fact, natural "raw" honey is not "processed" at all; it is extracted. In this regard it is a whole food much like whole fruits and vegetables.

In its raw form, honey is an antiseptic. Its high concentration of sugars kills microbes. As such, it has been used for wound treatments for millennia and is known to be better for sour throats (especially in the case of children) than any over-the-counter product. Put pure, natural Hawaiian honey in a jar and you sterilize the jar.

Small, home-based producers like myself take great pride in the purity of our product. The notion that some home based honey producers may extract in an area without access to county water has become excuse to require all home-based honey producers to comply with intentionally hostile and unnecessary labeling and training restrictions, restrictions that do not apply to products brought in from out-of-state. To suggest that home-based honey may be "hazardous to your health" equates honey, that may relieve your cold symptoms, with a cancer causing agent like cigarettes. This simply doesn't make sense.

The current home-based honey law has been the only bright spot in recent years for small honey producers like myself. It has provided the capital we need to purchase supplies and equipment to keep our bees alive. To take this away and replace it with an openly hostile piece of legislation is a favor we don't need.

Please don't pass this bill.

-Cary Dizon  
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